

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dry composition for admixture with water wherein the dry composition comprises, per litre of aqueous solution to
5 be made, the following components:
 - a) 80 to 350g polyethylene glycol;
 - b) 3 to 20g ascorbic acid, one or more salts of ascorbic acid or a mixture of ascorbic acid and one or more salts of ascorbic acid;
 - 10 c) 1 to 15g of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphate or a mixture of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates; and
 - d) optionally one or more electrolytes selected from sodium chloride, potassium chloride and sodium
15 hydrogen carbonate;the components of the composition being selected such that an aqueous solution made up to 1 litre has an osmolarity within the range of from 300 to 700 mOsmol/kg.
- 20 2. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution made up in 1 litre of water has an osmolarity of 330 mOsmol/kg or greater.
3. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein an
25 aqueous solution made up in 1 litre of water has an osmolarity in the range 550 mOsmol/kg or lower.
4. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of 2000
30 Daltons or greater.
5. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of 4500 Daltons or lower.

6. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of 3350 or 4000 Daltons.

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7. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 90g or more of polyethylene glycol per litre.

8. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising
10 from 150g or less of polyethylene glycol per litre.

9. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising 100g of polyethylene glycol per litre.

15 10. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphate or the mixture of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates in a quantity of 3g or more per litre.

20 11. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphate or the mixture of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates in a quantity 9g or less per litre.

25 12. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphate or the mixture of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates in a quantity of 7.5g per litre.

30 13. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal is magnesium.

14. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal is sodium.

15. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises sodium chloride.
- 5 16. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising sodium chloride in a quantity of 2g or more per litre.
17. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises potassium chloride.
- 10 18. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising potassium chloride in a quantity of from 0.5g or more per litre.
- 15 19. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising ascorbic acid or a salt thereof in a quantity of 5g or more per litre.
- 20 20. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising ascorbic acid or a salt thereof in a quantity of 10g or less per litre.
21. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising ascorbic acid and a salt thereof.
- 25 22. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising ascorbic acid and a salt thereof in a weight ratio within the range of from 1:9 to 9:1.
- 30 23. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising sodium ascorbate.
24. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a flavouring.

25. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising lemon flavouring.
- 5 26. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a sweetener that is not a metabolic substrate for bacteria in the gut.
27. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, further
10 comprising a sweetener selected from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame K, saccharine and citric acid.
28. The dry composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the ascorbic acid and/or the salt of ascorbic acid is coated.
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29. A colon cleansing preparation comprising an aqueous solution of a composition as claimed in claim 1.
30. A colon cleansing preparation sachet comprising the
20 components of a composition as claimed in claim 1.
31. A colon cleansing composition kit comprising the components of a composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least two portions in which the ascorbic acid and/or the
25 salts thereof are packaged in a first portion and the other components are packaged in a second portion.
32. A method of cleansing the colon of a mammal, comprising administering orally to the mammal a cleansing fluid
30 comprising, per litre, the following components:
- a) 80 to 150g polyethylene glycol;
 - b) 3 to 20g ascorbic acid, one or more salts of ascorbic acid or a mixture of ascorbic acid and one or more salts of ascorbic acid;

c) 1 to 15g of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphate or a mixture of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates; and

5 d) optionally one or more electrolytes selected from sodium chloride, potassium chloride and sodium hydrogen carbonate

the components being selected such that the cleansing fluid has an osmolality within the range of from 300 to 700 mOsmol/kg, the volume of fluid administered being from 1.5 to 10 3 litres for an adult human and pro rata for a mammal other than an adult human.

33. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition is administered over 1 to 4 hours.
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34. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the colon is cleansed prior to carrying out a diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure on the colon, rectum or anus or elsewhere in the abdomen.
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35. The method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the cleansing fluid used in the method has the features of the composition described in claim 22.

25 36. A dry composition for admixture with water wherein the dry composition comprises, per litre of aqueous solution to be made, the following components:

- a) 30 to 350 g polyethylene glycol;
- b) 3 to 20g ascorbic acid and one or more salts of
30 ascorbic acid; and
- c) optionally one or more electrolytes selected from sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium hydrogen carbonate and the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates.

37. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the salt of ascorbic acid is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal ascorbate.

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38. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the salt of ascorbic acid is sodium ascorbate.

39. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the ascorbic acid and the salt thereof are present in a weight ratio within the range of from 1:9 to 9:1.

40. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the ascorbic acid and the salt thereof are present in a weight ratio within the range of from 4:6 to 6:4.

41. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the composition comprises the additional features described in claim 27.

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42. The dry composition as claimed in claim 36, wherein the composition comprises sodium sulphate.

43. A colon cleansing preparation comprising an aqueous solution of a composition as claimed in claim 36.

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44. A colon cleansing preparation sachet comprising the components of a composition as claimed in claim 36.

45. A colon cleansing composition kit comprising the components of a composition as claimed in claim 36, comprising at least two portions in which the ascorbic acid and the salt thereof are packaged in a first portion and the other components are packaged in a second portion.

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46. A method for cleansing the colon of a mammal comprising administering orally to the mammal a preparation comprising, per litre, the following components:

- 5 a) 30 to 350 g polyethylene glycol;
- b) 3 to 20 g of a mixture of ascorbic acid and a salt of ascorbic acid; and
- c) optionally one or more electrolytes selected from sodium chloride, potassium chloride, sodium hydrogen
10 carbonate and the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal sulphates;

the volume of composition administered being from 1.5 to 4 litres for an adult human and pro rata for a mammal other than an adult human.

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47. The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the preparation is administered over 1 to 4 hours.

48. The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the colon is
20 cleansed prior to carrying out a diagnostic, therapeutic or surgical procedure on the colon, rectum or anus or elsewhere in the abdomen.

49. The method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the
25 composition used in the method is as described in claim 39.

50. A method of cleansing the colon of a mammal, comprising administering orally to the mammal in consecutive steps:

- a) 0.5 up to 3.0 litres of a cleansing solution
30 comprising PEG (volume V_{PEG}) over a period of time t_1 ;
 and
- b) 0.3 up to 2.0 litres of clear fluid (volume V_{cf}) over a period of time t_2 .

51. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein t_1 is 15 minutes or more.
52. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein t_1 is 2 hours or less.
53. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein t_2 is 15 minutes or more.
54. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein t_2 is 2 hours or less.
55. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein V_{PEG} is 800ml or greater.
56. The method as claimed in claim 50, wherein V_{PEG} is 2000ml or less.
57. A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein V_{cf} is 400ml or greater.
58. A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein V_{cf} is 1500ml or less.
59. A method of cleansing the colon of a patient, comprising administering orally to the patient in consecutive steps:
- a) 0.5 up to 3.0 litres of a first PEG-containing colon cleansing solution (volume V_{PEG}) over a period of time t_1 ;
 - b) 0.3 up to 2.0 litres of clear fluid (volume V_{cf}) over a period of time t_2 ; and
 - c) 0.5 up to 3.0 litres of a second PEG-containing colon cleansing solution (volume V_{2PEG}) over a period of time t_3 .

60. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein V_{PEG} , t_1 , V_{water} and t_2 are as described in any one of claims 51 to 58.

5 61. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein t_3 is approximately one hour.

62. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein $V_{2\text{PEG}}$ is 800ml or greater.

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63. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein $V_{2\text{PEG}}$ is 2000ml or less.

64. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the
15 administration regime comprises the further step:
d) administering 0.5 up to 2.0 litres of water orally
(volume $V_{2\text{water}}$) over a period of time t_4 , which is
30 minutes or more.

20 65. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the
administration regime comprises the further step:
d) administering 0.5 up to 2.0 litres of water orally
(volume $V_{2\text{water}}$) over a period of time t_4 , which is
30 minutes or more, $V_{2\text{water}}$ being 800ml or greater.

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66. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the
administration regime comprises the further step:
d) administering 0.5 up to 2.0 litres of water orally
(volume $V_{2\text{water}}$) over a period of time t_4 , which is
30 30 minutes or more, $V_{2\text{water}}$ being 1500ml or less.

67. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the
administration regime comprises the further step:

d) administering 0.5 up to 2.0 litres of water orally (volume $V_{2_{\text{water}}}$) over a period of time t_4 , which is 3 hours or less.

5 68. The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the PEG solution comprises a composition as described in claim 1 or claim 36.

69. A unit dosage colon cleansing composition comprising two
10 components, the first component being a composition for making up a first PEG-containing colon cleansing solution and the second component being a composition for making up a second PEG-containing colon cleansing solution.

15 70. A unit dosage colon cleansing composition as claimed in claim 69 wherein the kit comprises at least one further component comprising ascorbic acid and/or one or more salts thereof packaged separately from other components, said further component being for admixture with the first or
20 second composition for making up a PEG-containing colon cleansing solution.

71. A kit comprising a box, a unit dosage colon cleansing composition as claimed in claim 69 and instructions for its
25 use.

72. A method as claimed in claim 32 or claim 46, wherein the colon is cleansed in the treatment of an acute
gastrointestinal infection.

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73. The method as claimed in claim 72, wherein the cleansing fluid is administered over a period of 1 to 4 hours.